

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

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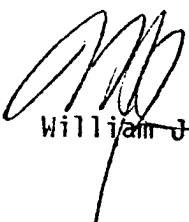
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*Memo
Chromo*

3 February 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable William P. Clark
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

Pursuant to our conversation, here's what we know
about the current situation in Suriname and the reported
suicide of Major Roy Horb.


William J. Casey

Attachment

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THE SITUATION IN SURINAME

1. The Government Radio in Paramaribo, Suriname, announced on the morning of 3 February that Major Roy Horb, the ex-Deputy Commander of the Surinamese Armed Forces, hanged himself in his prison cell during the night. Major Horb, who had openly criticized Army Commander and Surinamese strongman Desire Bouterse for following the Cuban line, was arrested on the evening of 30 January, along with 14 other persons who were accused of plotting to assassinate Bouterse. Horb subsequently was held in Fort Zeelandia.

2. Bouterse brutally tortured and executed 15 civilian leaders in the middle of the night on 8 December. He claimed that they were killed when they tried to escape from arrest for coup plotting, a story which had no credence with the population. The story about Major Horb appears also to be a cover-up. Horb had broken away from Bouterse over the issue of following the Cuban line. Horb told Bouterse and the Army commanders that he would not support a shift to the Cuban camp. Thereafter, he resigned his Deputy Army Commander position and took leave. Reports indicate that Horb was walking about in public places and receiving applause from the Surinamese populace for the position he took against Bouterse. Most persons close to him reject the story that he was plotting to kill Bouterse. They also do not believe that he hanged himself.

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